

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-9 and 11-29 are currently pending in this application. Claims 2, 7 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 4, 15 and 22 have been further amended for clarity. The amendments shown are based on the claims submitted with the December 2, 2010 Amendment. No new matter has been added.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. Interview Summary

Applicants kindly thank Examiners Greene and Shumate for the discussion of this application in the telephonic interview with Heidi Dare on December 16, 2010. No demonstration was given during the interview. Claims 1 and 4 and the "at least one region" were discussed. No agreement was reached during the interview. Applicants proposed to file a supplemental amendment to further clarify the "surface area."

II. Claim Rejections

Please see Applicants' discussion of the claim rejections submitted with the December 2, 2010 Amendment.

Applicants have clarified claims 1, 4, 15 and 22. Claims 1 and 4 require at least one region having a second surface area smaller than a first surface area of the non-woven layer. None of the references cited in the October 2, 2010 Office Action teach or suggest a layer of a filter having a treatment on only part of the layer.

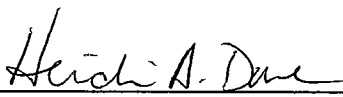
Claims 15 and 22 require a filter structure having a first surface area and a filter paper layer defining a first region having a second surface area smaller than the first surface area of the filter structure where the filter structure at the first region has reduced air permeability relative to a second region of the filter structure free of the filter paper layer. None of the references cited in the October 2, 2010 Office Action teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 15 and 22.

III. Summary

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above submissions in more detail, the Examiner is asked to please call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 21, 2010


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